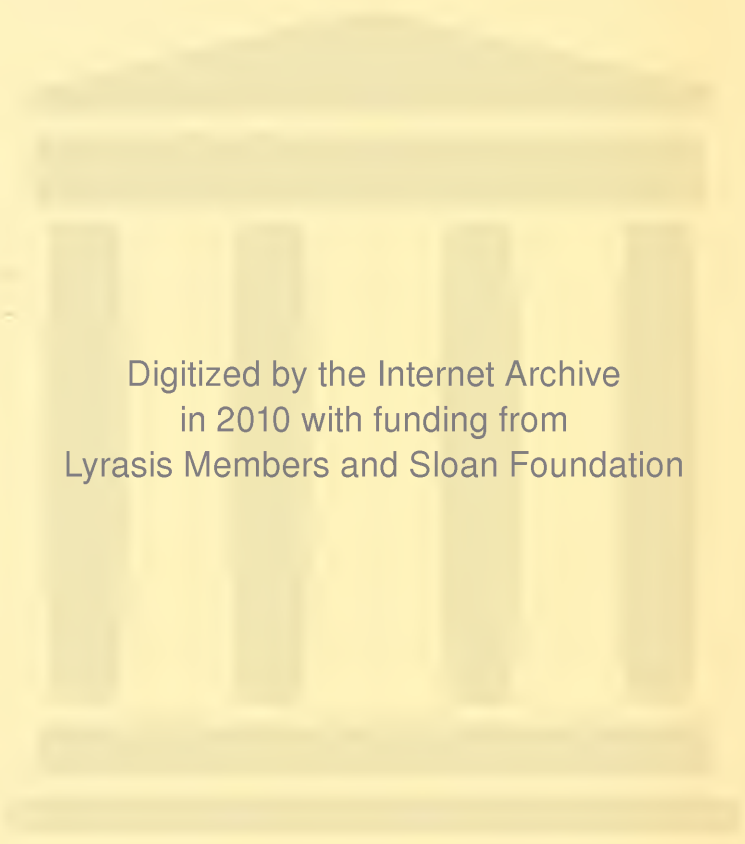


The
125th Anniversary
of
The Consecration
of
Trinity Church
1861 - 1986



Sunday, May 18, 1986



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The
125th Anniversary
of
The Consecration
of
Trinity Church
1861 - 1986

Sunday, May 18, 1986

First Service 1698
Parish Organized 1702
First Church Building 1713
Second Church Building 1756
Charter granted by King George III 1769
Present Church Building 1860
Rectory 1670 St. Martha's House 1874
New Parish House 1956
Cloister 1970

The 125th Anniversary of
The Consecration of
Trinity Church
Woodbridge, New Jersey

THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Most Rev. Edmund L. Browning, D.D.

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Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. Vincent King Pettit, M. Div. S.T.M.

Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

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RECTOR EMERITUS

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Allan R. Stewart, Junior Warden

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Valentine Blatz

Thomas Perez

Robert E. Grandjean, Jr.

Susan T. Saucedo-Sica

Virginia Kershaw

Craig P. Smith

George Siddons

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Chairman: Robert E. Grandjean, Jr.

Committee

Dorothy Corrado, Marilyn R. Grandjean, Joan Knopf,
Arthur Peters, Sue Peters, Charles Ruge, George Siddons,
Craig P. Smith, Doris Smith, Dorothy A. Smith,
Ruth Stoddard, Edna Takacs, Richard Takacs,
Howard L. Tune, Peggy Tune

Rectors of Trinity Church 1698-1986

1. Edward Portlock, 1698-1699
2. George Keith, 1703
3. John Talbot, M.A., 1704
4. John Sharpe, 1704
5. Edward Vaughan, 1709-1714
6. Thomas Halliday, 1717-1718
7. James William Skinner, 1722-1752
8. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, D.D., 1752-1763
9. Robert McKean, M.A., 1763-1767
10. John Preston, 1767-1769
11. Abraham Beach, D.D., 1769; 1778-1784
12. Uzal Ogden, D.D., 1797-1804
13. Jasper David Jones, 1804-1809
14. James Chapman, 1809
15. John Croes, D.D., 1809
16. John C. Rudd, D.D., 1810
17. Daniel Higbee, 1812-1813
18. Lewis P. Bayard, 1813
19. George Y. Morehouse, 1815-1816
20. Samuel C. Stratton, 1817-1818
21. Francis H. Cuming, 1819
22. Clarkson Dunn, 1819-1822
23. John M. Ward, 1822
24. Robert B. Croes, 1823
25. John Croes, Jr., 1824-1825
26. Charles Smith, 1825
27. Benjamin Holmes, 1825-1827
28. William Douglas, 1829-1838
29. Frederick Ogilby, 1838-1842
30. Hamble James Leacock, 1842-1843
31. James Chapman, 1843-1857
32. Henry N. Pierce, 1857
33. William R. Earle, 1857-1861
34. Eugene Augustus Hoffman, D.D., 1858-1862
35. Peter L. Jacques, 1862-1869
36. Robert C. McIlwain, 1869-1871
37. J.A. Penniman, 1871-1872
38. T. Lewis Bannister, 1872-1875
39. Julian Edward Ingle, 1875-1879
40. Frank Hallam, 1879-1880
41. Howard E. Thompson, 1880-1884
42. Lewis H. Lighthipe, M.A., 1885-1895
43. Rudolph E. Brestell, D.D., 1896-1899
44. Scott B. Rathbun, 1899-1913
45. Henry Hale Gifford, Ph.D., 1914-1917
46. Reginald Harwood Thomas, 1918
47. Walter Herbert Stowe, D.D., 1919-1921
48. Edward Harold Vogt, 1921-1923
49. J. Benjamin Myers, L.L.B., 1923-1931
50. Edward Randolph Welles, M.A., S.T.B., 1931-1934
51. Howard Frederick Klein, B.S., 1934-1942
52. William Harold Schmaus, M.A., S.T.B., 1942-1980 *Rector Emeritus*
53. Robert L. Counselman, B. Mus., M. Div., 1981-Present

The Rector's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

The celebration which we are observing at this time of the 125th Anniversary of the Consecration of our present church building is indeed a milestone for those of us who are present here now, but we must remember that it is but one page in the long and sometimes even difficult history of this parish.

We stand today on solid ground only as a result of the tremendous work and faith of those who have gone before us and it is to them that we should dedicate our celebration. For more than simply celebrating the anniversary of a building, we are celebrating the anniversary of one of the important events in the on-going life of our parish. And in celebrating such an event we must celebrate the people who constitute the Church both in the past and the present.

We celebrate much more than 125 years in one building, for however beautiful and uplifting it may be for us, it is only a building and the essence of a parish is its people. It is *they* even more than the building which we celebrate on this occasion and I ask your prayers for both those who have gone before us and those who will carry on the work of the Church in this place after us.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Counselman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. Robert L. Counselman
Rector

*Greetings from the President of the
United States of America*

THE WHITE HOUSE

• WASHINGTON

April 7, 1986

To the Congregation of Trinity Church:

Congratulations on your 125th anniversary. I know you must be very proud to have reached this milestone.

As a nation united under God, our best efforts are directed toward the achievement of that enduring peace which is founded on respect for the God-given worth and dignity of every human person. In this commitment, the work of America's religious institutions is more important than ever. The comfort, compassion and moral guidance traditionally provided by churches and synagogues continue to inspire men and women in their selfless pursuit of the common good. We Americans are a proud and patriotic people. But we have always recognized that we owe our first allegiance to the God Who has so generously endowed us, for it is by His blessings that we prosper.

Nancy joins me in sending warm best wishes for your celebration. May God continue to bless you in all your endeavors.

Ronald Reagan

*Greetings from the Bishop of the
Diocese of New Jersey*



Diocese of New Jersey

808 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N.J. 08618
(609) 394-5281

THE RT. REV. G. P. MELLICK BELSHAW
Bishop

April 10, 1986

Mr. Robert E. Grandjean, Jr.
Trinity Church
650 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Dear Mr. Grandjean:

Thank you so much for your kind invitation to the gala celebration which will be celebrated in honor of the 125th anniversary of Trinity Church. It certainly is a memorable occasion and I hope that you will express to the whole congregation my congratulations and best wishes.

Unfortunately, I have commitments that day both a visitation and subsequent events in Rumson. You certainly will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Faithfully yours,

Mellick Belshaw

Greetings from the Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey



Diocese of New Jersey

808 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08618 • 609-394-5281

THE RT. REV. G. P. MELLICK BELSHAW
Bishop

THE RT. REV. VINCENT KING PETTIT
Suffragan Bishop

Mr. Robert E. Grandjean, Jr.
Trinity Church
650 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Dear Mr. Grandjean,

Thank you for the invitation to attend the festival celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the consecration of Trinity Church, Woodbridge.

I regret that I will not be able to attend because of commitments that have been already made for that date.

Trinity Church has made such wonderful advancements in the last few years and we congratulate you. Please be assured of our prayers in the continued ministry we all share together.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Vincent King Pettit", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Historical Abstract

By: Howard L. Tune

Jonathan and Mary Dunham moved from Haverhill, Mass. to Woodbridge in 1670. The Township Council had offered them thirty pound sterling and all the sod they could use to construct the first grist mill in the area. On the south bank of Papiack Creek, the mill was built of wooden timbers. Soon, residents of Woodbridge were bringing wheat, oats and corn to the Dunham mill to be ground into flour and meal. In payment, Jonathan kept part of what he milled. Contemporary writers tell us that he was highly regarded in his work.

In need of a permanent home, Jonathan chose a parcel of land adjacent to the mill and hard by Kirk Green, which served as a kind of Town Commons. Papiack Creek today is a mere trickle, but in 1670, parts of it were deep enough to accommodate sailing ships. Further downstream from his mill, Jonathan collected ballast stones which had been discarded from sailing ships from Holland. With these stones he built a home for his family, the first brick structure in Woodbridge Township. For many years it would be considered the finest home in the area. Over the next decade, four Dunham sons were born. Son number three, Benjamin, would be instrumental in creating Trinity Church.

As early as 1698, missionaries from the Church of England visited Woodbridge in search of a flock. They found some ready hearers, but the area was a hotbed of religious dissenters, and an undercurrent of opposition existed. Benjamin Dunham had followed his parents religion, and joined the Independent (Congregational) Church, sited on the Kirk Green. In 1711, the Independent Church appeared about to join the Presbyterian fold. Ten dissenters, including Benjamin, signed a petition to the Governor for his leave to form an Anglican church. The site would be on a low rise between the Independent Meeting House and the Dunham House. Permission was granted almost immediately. Benjamin opened his family home for services until a church could be built. Thus, Trinity's first services were actually held in the Dunham Home — the present rectory.

Upon Jonathan's death in 1702 or 1703, his mill went largely unused. His son Benjamin declined to follow his father's profession, instead becoming a successful innkeeper. Being well acquainted with the community, Benjamin zealously collected money for the erection of a church. He was also the largest contributor. All of his spare time was spent building it. Tragically,

Benjamin died suddenly at age 35 in 1715. The church was not yet complete, and work soon ceased. Being incomplete led to its early deterioration and may have retarded the growth of the parish until a new church was built some forty years later. But what Benjamin Dunham started would not die away, as the coming years would attest to.

For the better part of three hundred years Trinity Church has served the needs of its congregations. It has survived local opposition, revolution, occupation by the British, fire, civil war, depression, parish vacancy and periods of near bankruptcy. Somehow, whenever Trinity's fortunes looked bleak, someone — rector, supply (temporary) priest, vestryman or lay person — has stepped forward to rescue it. *Remember:* James Parker, New Jersey's first printer, who served as lay reader and who helped Reverend Chandler build the second church in 1754, *Remember:* Vestryman Daniel Terrill who in 1811 worked night and day to save the church from near extinction by begging money from churchmen of the *Diocese*. And when enough had been raised, he slept in the church until it had been completely repaired by his own hands. *Remember:* Reverend Eugene Augustus Hoffman, who saw his wooden church burn to the ground one Sunday afternoon, then built a larger, brick structure which would stand one hundred and twenty five years. *Remember:* Mr. and Mrs. George C. Hance who all but donated two buildings (The Rectory and St. Martha's House) to the church. *Remember:* Professor John H. Love, lay reader and Senior Warden who in 1900 refused to close the church, even when only one person was attending services. Finally, let us *Remember:* The Reverend William H. Schmaus, who came to a vacant parish as vicar, revitalized it, and stayed more than 37 years.

As we read our church's history, one certain fact stands out clearly — that Trinity has faced and survived every conceivable crisis that time and man can offer. Faith in ourselves, Christian love and the selfless dedication of many has bridged the difficult times. As we have done in the past, certainly shall our parish do in the future. The success story of Trinity Episcopal Church is now nearly three hundred years long, and show no sign of ending. Its success has been a triumph of the spirit, the spirit of priests, of vestry and of lay people who have put their church and their faith above themselves. With good reason, we look confidently to the future.

Six O'Clock P.M. Cocktail Hour on the Lawn

Seven O'Clock P.M. Dinner

Menu

Champagne Toast

Fresh Fruit Cup

Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter

Tossed Green Salad

Roast Prime Rib of Beef

Au Jus

Fresh Broccoli and Baby Carrots

Stuffed Baked Potatoe

Dessert

Coffee, Sanka or Tea

Program

Master of Ceremonies: Edward Levinsohn

Blessing

The Rt. Rev. Edward R. Welles, S.T.D.
Retired Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri
Rector of Trinity Church 1931-1934

Welcome

The Rev. Robert L. Counselman, B. Mus., M. Div.
Rector of Trinity Church - Woodbridge

Greetings

The Rev. Canon Edward B. Geyer, Jr., A.B., S.T.B.
Assistant to the Presiding Bishop
Message from the Presiding Bishop
The Most Rev. Edmund L. Browning, D.D.

The Rt. Rev. Albert W. Van Duzer, D.D., S.T.D.
Retired Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey
Message from the Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey
The Rt. Rev. G.P. Mellick Belshaw, D.D.

The Honorable Philip Cerria
Mayor of Woodbridge

Mr. Richard Kuzniak
President, Woodbridge Township Council
Proclamation from the Honorable Philip Cerria, Mayor
and the Council of the Township of Woodbridge

Keynote Speaker

Mr. Lester Dunham
Decendent of Benjamin Dunham

Benediction

The Rt. Rev. Albert W. Van Duzer, D.D., S.T.D.

With deep appreciation to:

Noreen Anderson

Sharon Counselman

Edward A. Grandjean

Cookie Kreusch

Edward Levinsohn

Linda Levinsohn

Susan Saucedo-Sica

David Sica

Wendy Smith

Robert Squires

Nicole Tory

Phyllis Tory

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The Trinity Adult Choir

*Who unselfishly gave their time
and support to make the
125th Anniversary Celebration
A Success.*

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*Congratulations and Prayful
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STEPHEN J. DALINA
KATHLEEN M. HAMILTON
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served Trinity Church*

• • •

*In Thanksgiving for those who have
served and are living*

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THE REV. WILLIAM H. SCHMAUS, Rector Emeritus

FATHER ROBERT L. COUNSELMAN, 53rd Rector of Trinity

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Happy 125th!

With respect for the past, we look forward
to Trinity's future.

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Ryan

Howie

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